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Title: Need to declare Kerala as the drought affected State.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT): Sir, just before me, my colleague, Shri Karunakaran has mentioned about the serious situation which the farming community in Kerala are facing. We are having a full-fledged discussion today afternoon. So, I do not want to go into the details. The situation is very severe. For the two consecutive years, some districts of Kerala have been declared as the drought affected districts in Kerala. The Government of India had declared 14 States in the last year as the drought affected States but Kerala had been excluded.

Now, the hon. Minister of Agriculture in his reply during the Question Hour has mentioned that he would take up the matter to resolve the problems faced by the farming community of Kerala. At that time, he mentioned that the Government of Kerala has not given the details to the Government of India in a proper manner. I must say that the people of Kerala should not suffer for the lapse of the existing Government of Kerala because Kerala is a part of our country. â€¦(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, very much so.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Of course, the Government of India can take up the matter with the Kerala Government on its own. â€¦(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Agriculture Minister has expressed his concern, I am sure.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : We are having a discussion on this subject today afternoon. So, I would like to raise it at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Now, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. You kindly speak on Vallarpadam Container Terminal.